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ALBANIA. *May 22.*—It was learnt that a protest had been made by the British Government against the action of coastal batteries in firing on 2 British cruisers off Corfu.

ARGENTINA. *May 23.*—Col. Peron, in a broadcast, ordered his followers of the Labour Party and the Peronista Radicals to unite in a single national revolutionary party. He would have to abandon leadership of the Peronista movement on assuming office as President, and therefore declared lapsed all existing Peronista party authorities.

*May 24.*—A decree was issued lifting the state of siege, which had been in force since Dec. 16, 1941 except for a few weeks in 1945.

AUSTRALIA. *May 7.*—Mr. Chifley in Washington. (*see U.S.A.*)

*May 9.*—Mr. Chifley's statement on leaving Washington for Japan. (*see U.S.A.*)

*May 10.*—Dr. Evatt's broadcast from London. (*see Great Britain.*)

*May 14.*—Dr. Evatt in Paris. (*see France.*)

*May 15.*—About 95 ships carrying wool and food were prevented from sailing from Australian ports by a dock strike over "double-dumped" wool.

*May 19.*—Mr. Chifley arrived in Sydney from Japan. He said that a common policy for the defence of British interests in the Pacific which ensured the security of Australia was evolved at the conference in London.

*May 20.*—Mr. Forde, the acting Premier, broadcasting, stated that war-time rationing of meat, sugar, and butter would continue in order to keep promises made to Britain for the supply of all surplus food above existing requirements.

AUSTRIA. *May 8.*—The Socialist Party Congress, in Vienna, adopted

a programme which included the end of Military Government and the substitution of international supervision for a period until Austria was restored to full sovereignty, the early and complete withdrawal of troops, and the acceptance of Austria in the U.N.O.

*May 23.*—The Government asked the Allied Council for the removal from Austria of the displaced persons, who numbered nearly 300,000, on the ground that most of them were hostile to the Governments in neighbouring countries and made friendly relations very difficult. The Minister of the Interior said in Parliament that these people were out of the Government's control. He also stated that over 2,000 Jews who had settled in Palestine since the *Anschluss* had applied for permits to return to Austria.

**BELGIUM.** *May 15.*—The Government filed a complaint with the U.N.O. sub-committee on Spain in support of the charge that Spain was a hiding-place for Nazi criminals, adding that Spain had refused to hand over Degrelle, the former Rexist leader.

**BRAZIL.** *May 13.*—The first Soviet Ambassador to Brazil since 1917 arrived in Rio de Janeiro.

*May 23.*—Disturbances at a Communist meeting in Rio led to one person being killed and many injured.

*May 24.*—The Government banned all Communist meetings.

**BURMA.** *May 15.*—U Saw, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Myochit Party, handed to the press the text of his letter to the Secretary of State dated February 19, and said that, unless a satisfactory response was received by the end of May, he would, in accordance with the mandate of the party, be obliged to withdraw the three members of his party from the Governor's Executive Council.

In his letter he represented that the White Paper Proposals to separate completely, even though temporarily, the administration of the frontier areas from that of Burma proper would have the effect of widening the divergence between the peoples of those areas and the Burmese. He urged the British Government to state explicitly a time limit within which Dominion status would be granted, and recommended that the Executive Council should be given the same position and powers as Ministers were under the Government of Burma Act, 1935 and that it should be enlarged to include Defence and External Affairs within its scope, with suitable Burmese holding these portfolios. He also asked for the transfer of Burmese affairs from the Burma Office to the Dominions Office.

**CANADA.** *May 7.*—The House of Commons endorsed, by 167 votes to 6, the financial agreement with Great Britain signed on March 6.

*May 8.*—The Prime Minister, replying to questions in Parliament about Britain's decision to withdraw her troops from Egypt, said that so far as Canada was concerned no advice had been offered to the British

Government on any aspect of Anglo-Egyptian discussions, nor was Canada a party to any decision that had been taken. Policy towards Egypt was primarily the responsibility of the British Government, and normal methods of consultation had kept Ottawa informed about the negotiations and the policy to be pursued.

May 10.—The Senate passed the Bill providing for a loan of \$1,250 million to Britain.

May 12.—Mr. Mackenzie King left for New York and London.

May 18.—The Minister of Agriculture said that, as far as he knew, the 200,000 tons of wheat which Mr. Morrison had decided to send to Europe was Canadian wheat, sold to Britain at 7s. 8d. a bushel, and he did not think Canada was willing to have it go to Germany at the same price as that at which it was allowed to go to Britain and other allies.

May 19.—Mr. Herbert Morrison arrived in Ottawa.

May 20.—A Joint Statement of the Canadian Government and Mr. Morrison said that the world food crisis would continue at least until the harvests of 1947 became available. Canada expected to supply 2,300,000 tons of bread grain out of the 10,000,000 tons likely to be available between May and September for the food deficit countries.

CEYLON. May 17.—An Order in Council dated May 15, embodying the new Constitution, was published. It provided for a Parliament consisting of his Majesty, represented by the Governor, and two Chambers. The Parliament would have full power to make laws, except those which discriminated against any community or religion. A Cabinet would be collectively responsible to Parliament. His Majesty's assent would be required for classes of Bills relating to defence and external affairs and Bills which in the Governor's opinion, had evoked serious opposition by any religious or racial community. The power to legislate by Order in Council for defence and external affairs and to amend or revoke the Constitution was retained by his Majesty's Government.

May 19.—The Indian community declared a *Hartal* on June 4 in protest against the terms of the new Constitution.

CHINA. May 9.—Government forces captured Penhsiuhu, southeast of Mukden, a major Communist base.

Press reports from Changchun described the Communists as in administrative control of about two-thirds of Manchuria, and said they had operated under a military plan hitched to the evacuation timetable of the Russian occupation.

Gen. Eisenhower arrived in Nanking and saw Gen. Chiang Kai-shek and Gen. Marshall. He told the press that they wanted China as a friend, and had no ulterior motives: "we want merely to help the people to develop according to their genius and methods".

In Hupeh agreement was reported to have been reached for a cessation of the fighting.

May 11.—The truce in Hupeh was put into effect, and agreement was also reached in Shantung for a cessation of hostilities,

*May 13.*—Gen. Ho Ying-chin, the C.-in-C. of the Army, resigned.

*May 15.*—It was learnt that the War Ministry was being converted into a Ministry of Defence, with Gen. Pai Tsung-chi at its head, succeeding Gen. Chen Cheng, who was appointed C.-in-C. of the Army.

Gen. Yu Ta-huei was reported to have been appointed Minister of Communications, and Mr. Peng Hsueh-pei, Minister of Information.

*May 16.*—Semi-official sources in Mukden announced that all Russian troops had been withdrawn from Manchuria, with the exception of those at Port Arthur, where they were stationed under the terms of the Sino-Russian Treaty.

Nanking reports stated that Government troops, in order to clear their lines of communication between Mukden and Harbin, had launched an attack along the railway and had captured their first objective, Yekhochin.

*May 18.*—The official *Central Daily News* published an article urging the Government to mobilize all its strength and "put an end to the Communist rebels". The Government had made all possible concessions, and did not wish to hear of any more bargaining demands by the Communists.

*May 21.*—General Marshall told the press that he was deeply concerned "over the critical situation in north China". He accused both sides of "reckless propaganda of hate and suspicion". He feared that it might precipitate a general conflagration.

*May 22.*—The Kungchu pass, S.W. of Changchun, was captured by Government forces, who were also reported to be within 20 miles of the city along the railway from Mukden.

*May 23.*—Government forces recaptured Changchun. Scattered fighting was reported in Jehol, and in Shantung Communist forces were stated to be advancing on Tsinan.

*May 24.*—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek arrived in Mukden.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** *May 21.*—Karl Frank, former Governor of Bohemia, was condemned to death.

*May 22.*—Frank was hanged in public.

*May 26.*—The General Election was held for a Constituent Assembly.

**EGYPT.** *May 6.*—King Farouk's letter to President Truman. (see U.S.A.)

*May 7.*—Mr. Attlee's statement regarding the negotiations for treaty revision. (see *Great Britain*.)

*May 8.*—The Prime Minister endorsed, in Parliament, the British statement on the evacuation of Egypt, and said the two countries were beginning negotiations, in an atmosphere of friendship, to settle the stages and the date of completion and the measures Egypt would have to take to ensure mutual assistance in time of war or the threat of war. The Egyptian negotiators would be very careful to see that this co-operation was kept within the limits of the U.N. Charter and within the interests of Egypt. He believed that the complete evacuation and an alliance with Britain within the Charter were a great blessing for Egypt.



He also announced that the Government had decided to conclude a special agreement with the Security Council, putting Egyptian arms and the right of passage through Egypt at the disposal of the world police force.

*May 9.*—Formal negotiations with the British delegation began and it was stated afterwards that "the proceedings were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and good understanding". Sidky Pasha, welcoming the British delegation, said he had had "the great advantage of being helped by the new ideas which the recent war has evoked and which the new spirit of peoples has consecrated. I mean the universally admitted principle that each should be master of his own house, and that the right to liberty for individuals as for peoples should be placed beneath the collective safeguarding of the whole of the nations whose fates have been brought together and whose aims have been harmonized by war. It is under the sign of this community of principles that in the first conversations representatives of Egypt and the United Kingdom have been able to meet on ground where understanding could be realized without too much difficulty".

*May 10.*—A general strike in Cairo in protest against the Palestine Report led to the closing of shops and stoppage of local train, bus, and tram services.

*May 12.*—King Victor Emanuel arrived in Alexandria, and was the guest of King Farouk.

*May 13.*—The Premier, speaking in the Senate, said British troops had begun evacuating barracks. He declared that the claims on the Sudan had not been, and would not be, dropped by the Egyptian negotiators.

Nahas Pasha issued a statement warning the nation that the negotiations had taken a dangerous turn, the claims on the Sudan having been dropped and a military alliance, as the price of evacuation, accepted as a basis of negotiations.

*May 16.*—The Premier stated that he had been informed by the British delegation that the evacuation of troops from Cairo and Alexandria had begun.

*May 19.*—Rioting occurred in Alexandria after a collision between a British lorry and a tram, and two British welfare clubs were stoned and 45 soldiers injured.

*May 20.*—The report was published of the British trade mission, which toured Egypt in November and December. It recommended the co-operation of the industry of the two countries, to the advantage of both, the provision of British technicians in Egyptian companies, the establishment of a British trade centre in Cairo, and other measures.

**FINLAND.** *May 17.*—In consequence of incidents on May Day the Government suppressed the Association of Conservative Students, and the Independence League.

*May 21.*—The British Minister protested to the Foreign Minister about the publication of anti-British articles in the press.

FRANCE. *May 7.*—The Cabinet discussed the U.S. proposal for a 25-year alliance against German aggression and accepted unanimously the Foreign Minister's contention that it constituted an inadequate protection against German rearmament.

*May 14.*—Dr. Evatt arrived in Paris.

*May 18.*—The official News Agency announced that France had no intention of ceding bases in any of her Pacific possessions to the U.S.A., and would guarantee their protection herself.

GERMANY. *May 10.*—Review of the organization set up in the British zone. (see *Great Britain.*)

Gen. Student, commander of the air-borne troops in the invasion of Crete, was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment by a war crimes court at Lüneburg for responsibility for atrocities by his men. At Wuppertal 5 men (S.S. and police) were sentenced to death and others to long terms of imprisonment for the murder of British parachutists at a camp in Baden in 1944.

*May 11.*—A U.S. military court at Dachau found guilty all 61 Germans responsible for the conduct of Mauthausen concentration camp.

*May 13.*—Sentence of death was pronounced on 58 of the Mauthausen officials, and of life imprisonment on the other 3. The court found that the deaths by shooting, gassing, hanging, regulated starvation, etc., were brought about through deliberate conspiracy and planning by Reich officials.

*May 15.*—General Smuts arrived in Berlin.

*May 16.*—Statement by the Control Office for Germany on the strength in man-power of German services in British zone. (see *Great Britain.*)

A reduction of about 95 calories a day in the rations for normal consumers in the American zone was announced.

*May 17.*—The Allied Control Council appointed a quadripartite commission to visit each of the zones and to report on the progress of disarmament.

*May 18.*—A statement issued in the British zone reported 9 mass raids on food trains in the Ruhr in 11 days, and the arrest of over 100 people.

*May 21.*—American troops and police raided nearly 400 vessels anchored near Passau, inhabited mainly by Hungarians, and detained 3,000 people for suspected black market activity, drug smuggling, arms running, and maintaining an underground railway for the escape of former S.S. members.

*May 26.*—The Deputy Military Governor of the U.S. zone announced that reparation deliveries had been stopped, except for factories already allocated. This action had been taken to "safeguard the economy of the zone". The 150 plants earmarked as reparations would not be dismantled until the Potsdam Agreement had been implemented on the following points: administration of Germany as an economic entity, with the establishment of necessary central agencies; establishment of

an export-import programme for Germany to provide credits to pay for food imports and necessary raw materials; establishment of free inter-zonal trade to help the crippled U.S. zone to check the downward trend of its industrial production with materials which other zones, notably the Russian, could supply.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** *May 6.*—The Parliamentary Foreign Secretary stated in the Commons that so far 113 German officials in Spain had been repatriated, and of the 1200 still there 952 had been listed for repatriation. 44 agents had been sent home and 440 were still in Spain; 1,293 military and para-military personnel had been sent home, and about 200 were still in Spain.

Increased allied supervision was being exercised in a number of German industrial firms, and allied nominees had been appointed to the boards of 3 out of 4 I.G. Farben subsidiaries.

Dr. Giral, the Spanish Republican leader, arrived in London.

*May 7.*—The Prime Minister announced in Parliament that the Treaty delegation in Cairo engaged in negotiations with the Egyptian Government had issued a statement reading: "It is the considered policy of H.M. Government to consolidate their alliance with Egypt as one between two equal nations having interests in common. In pursuance of this policy negotiations have begun in an atmosphere of cordiality and good will. The Government of the U.K. have proposed the withdrawal of all British naval, military, and air forces from Egyptian territory, and to settle in negotiation the stages and date of completion of this withdrawal, and the arrangements to be made by the Egyptian Government to make possible mutual assistance in time of war or imminent threat of war in accordance with the alliance."

Speaking on a motion for the adjournment Mr. Attlee said Britain had promised to leave Egypt long ago, and the presence of foreign troops in the capital offended national sentiments. There was a suspicion strong in Egyptian minds, which the Government wanted to dissipate, that the British wished to occupy Egypt. All the advice given them during the negotiations had convinced the Government that, in order that the alliance should continue with the same mutual confidence as in the past, the complete freedom and independence of Egypt was essential.

It was their intention that in the new alliance the principle of joint responsibility in the event of war or emergencies and in the defence of the Canal should be upheld. "I am perfectly alive to the fact", he went on, "that in conditions of modern warfare we can only carry out our obligations if we have been put in a position by the Egyptian Government to bring our forces into action in the area without loss of time in an emergency. What we are endeavouring to work out with the Egyptians is how we can best get those facilities, in what time it will be possible to withdraw our troops, get rid of the very large installations we have got there, and how, with them, we can arrange to carry out our obligations for the defence of the Canal."

He added that they had discussed these matters with the Chiefs of Staff and with the Dominions Prime Ministers. They agreed that this was the best method of approach. Replying to Mr. Eden, who asked whether timing, method, and wording had been agreed with the Dominions, he said: "Yes, I brought this draft before the Dominion Prime Ministers and discussed it with them . . . very fully. They agreed that this was the best method of approach." After further questions he said: "We decided on this draft. We considered that was the right line of approach, and then naturally we brought it before the Dominions. I am not attempting to shelter myself by putting responsibility on others. I say they were fully consulted."

The Lord President of the Council said that the situation in Egypt was very different from what it had been when the previous treaties had been concluded. The Egyptian Government now sought three things: a decision that there should be a military evacuation from Egypt; then discussions into the ways and means and timing of the withdrawal; and the question of the future of the alliance, including how military aid could be forthcoming, which would raise all sorts of military considerations. The first stage had been reached, with the result announced by Mr. Attlee. The reason the Government had completed this first stage before starting the discussions relating to the other two was that they were advised to move on the lines announced by all their people on the spot, including the diplomatic and military people.

He also said that if the Government had told the Egyptian Government that they would give no undertaking about the withdrawal of the troops the negotiations would not have gone on, and then the British Government would have had to face certain consequences. There would be sharp antagonism on the part of the Egyptian Government and Parliament; almost certain disturbance and riots, possibly even revolution, and it might have led to British forces being attacked and having to defend themselves. That would be on the road to the military occupation of the country, and Britain would not have had the sympathy of her friends of the civilized world. Such an event would not have had the assent of the people of Great Britain.

*May 8.*—Mr. Attlee stated in Parliament that his use of the word "agreed" might have given a wrong impression of the attitude of the Dominions' statesmen towards the Government's decision regarding Egypt. There was full information and discussion, but the Ministers were not called upon to express agreement on a matter which was a United Kingdom responsibility. The Dominion Governments were kept fully informed by telegram, and in addition the Government took the opportunity of personal discussion with the Australian, New Zealand, and S. African Ministers, who were in London.

*May 9.*—Mr. Churchill's speech at The Hague. (*see The Netherlands.*)

*May 10.*—Mr. Hynd, opening a debate in Parliament on the Control Commission in Germany, announced the appointment of 4 civilian commissioners for the 4 regions of the British zone, to replace corps commanders of the Rhine Army. They would supervise and co-

ordinate the activities of the central control stations, and be in contact with representative German organizations and "political trends".

He said that the 2,000 British officers and 3,000 men who had been responsible for conducting the administration for the past 12 months had achieved a miracle of organization. There had been a great scarcity of suitable men among the Germans, and now came the scarcity of food. The British zone was the least self-sufficient in food of all the zones, and though the four Powers had agreed on a common standard of feeding throughout Germany, there was no pooling of resources. The present supply of wheat was hardly sufficient to supply the 1,000 calories ration to the end of May, and serious consequences would attend a breakdown of supplies. It would be impossible to keep up the Ruhr coal production, where output had been raised in January to 4½ million tons, of which about 1 million were exported.

The Australian Minister for External Affairs, in a broadcast, said that in consultations such as those going on in London it was seldom the intention to arrive at formal agreements. He then dealt with various cases in which partnership agreements or arrangements had been made, and pointed out that the growth in stature of the Dominions had been demonstrated at San Francisco, where Australia and New Zealand, supported by other middle and smaller nations, proposed and got accepted many amendments to the Charter which greatly liberalized and democratized the original Dumbarton Oaks draft.

They must recognize that under the voting procedure of the Security Council the "veto" gave to each of the five Powers the ability to block many decisions of the Council, including some relating to peaceful settlement and all relating to enforcement action. The existence of this veto made it impossible to rely entirely on Security Council action as the only weapon against aggression. There must therefore be a constant re-examination of British Commonwealth and regional defence arrangements in the light of the degree of success of the United Nations in carrying out its objective of giving adequate security against aggression.

Australia insisted that all active belligerents, and not merely 3 or 4 of them, should be entitled to take an active part in making the peace, and their claim was admitted and guaranteed in the Moscow agreement in December. In his view the absence of agreement between four major Powers on the treaty drafts made a meeting of the peace conference not less but more urgent.

May 13.—Mr. Churchill arrived back from Holland.

May 15.—Sir Ben Smith, in reply to a question in Parliament, said that since D-day 1,400,000 tons of foodstuffs had been sent to liberated Europe from the U.K. At the beginning of May stocks of food and feeding stuffs in the U.K. were 3,806,000 tons. About 750,000 tons consisted of coarse grains and animal feeding stuffs. He said he was not prepared to cut stocks further, as this would mean more cuts in consumption.

Mr. Morrison's broadcast. (*see U.S.A.*)

May 16.—The Control Office for Germany and Austria issued in London details of the present strength in man-power of the German

services in the British Zone. The total number was 120,000, of which 75,000 were employed by the B.A.O.R. on mine clearance, labour, and transport; 23,000 were working for the R.A.F. on labour and ground equipment; and a similar number were employed by the Royal Navy on mine-sweeping. They were organized in units under foremen. Their dress was a loose green working garment, bearing no resemblance to the German field grey. No badges of rank were permitted, but foremen wore two-inch strips of black tape on their upper arm. The employment of these men was necessary because of the shortage of mobile labour. All surrendered enemy personnel, amounting to about 2,500,000, had been disbanded, and a further 400,000 had been transferred to other zones. All German headquarters had been dissolved. Some 79,000 prisoners of war from all the armed services were still held in camps outside Germany. In December, 1945 there were approximately 90,000 sick prisoners of war in hospitals under the Control Commission.

The Government announced that 70,000 tons of barley and 80,000 tons of potatoes would be sent to the British zone during the following five weeks.

The Secretary for War announced the opening of a recruiting campaign aimed at increasing the Navy by 50,000, the Army by 100,000, and the R.A.F. by 100,000 by voluntary enlistment, before the end of the year. In a broadcast he said: "We must have Regular Forces very appreciably bigger than we have to-day. This is true, whether we have to continue compulsory National Service or not."

Admiral Leahy arrived in London.

Sir Ben Smith confirmed that negotiations with France for the import in 1946 of £4,000,000 of wines and spirits had been concluded. Agreement with Holland. (*see The Netherlands.*)

May 17.—The Secretary for the Colonies announced the terms of the new Constitution for Ceylon. (*see Ceylon.*)

Mr. Morrison's statement. (*see U.S.A.*)

A 3 years' agreement with Denmark concerning the export prices of bacon and eggs was made.

May 19.—Mr. Mackenzie King arrived in London.

May 20.—Mr. Dalton stated in Parliament that the Swedish monetary authorities were prepared to hold additional sterling to the amount of £15,000,000 during the year to April 30, 1947. In case of need this figure might be increased to £16,000,000.

May 22.—The Colonial Secretary stated in Parliament that the Government had reviewed its decision on the cession of Sarawak in the light of the voting of the Council Negri, but had decided that the narrow majority amongst the non-European members against the Bill did not afford grounds for rejecting the cession. The two M.P.s, in their independent inquiry, had reported that cession was, broadly speaking, acceptable to the inhabitants, and had strongly urged that there should be no postponement.

Mr. Bevin made a statement in Parliament about the plan for the Polish Forces. The main points were: troops who had volunteered to



return to Poland would henceforth be eligible for war gratuity and to an issue of civilian clothing; "as for those troops who do not wish to return to Poland, it is our aim to demobilize them as quickly as possible and to arrange for their settlement in civilian life, either in Great Britain or oversea. Those serving abroad will be brought back to this country, starting with those in Italy"; they would be enrolled in a Resettlement Corps which would be a British organization. This would be essentially a transitional arrangement, designed to facilitate the transition from military to civil life; those for whom approved jobs could be found would go to them immediately, the others meanwhile being employed on constructive work and in appropriate cases given training; as soon as settlement was complete, the corps would cease to exist.

In reply to questions Mr. Bevin said that the number of troops still in Italy was about 100,000, and in the U.K. 60,000.

*May 23.*—Mr. Morrison, reporting in Parliament on his mission to America, said that the immediate occasion for his mission was the emergence of some misunderstandings as to responsibility for, and ability to supply, India and the British zone of Germany. It had been agreed that henceforth the U.S.A. would accept responsibility for these areas to the same extent as for any other, and that there should be the same standard of rationing in the American and British zones. As most other nations claimed to have only a 3 or 4 weeks' supply of wheat, it was widely felt in the U.S.A. that Britain had maintained her stocks at an unnecessarily high level. In order to put the U.S. Government in a position to defend the U.K. programme relating to India and Germany, he had agreed to reduce import claims during the period up to September by 200,000 tons without any condition of replacement. This reduction was made not in stocks acquired, but in the call on supplies as they would come forward. He admitted that this was a hazardous step, but necessary in this emergency. If further sacrifices proved necessary, it would not be for want of the utmost possible administrative ingenuity and effort to avoid them. The U.S. Government had agreed that criticism against the level of U.K. stocks would now be regarded as definitely and finally met by the sacrifice made.

After praising the efforts of Canada, he concluded by saying that "we are now on the way to creating the same type of spirit and urgency about food for winning the peace which we created for resources for winning the war". Replying to questions, he said that shipments to India in 1946 would be at a very much higher rate than in any previous year.

A communiqué was issued at the end of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' discussions which affirmed the value of the consultations which had taken place and stressed that, while all representatives were willing to consider and adopt practical proposals for developing the existing system, it was agreed that the existing methods were preferable to any rigid centralized machinery. The discussions had been in the nature of an informal exchange of views on the draft peace treaties; the future of Germany; security responsibilities and arrangements for

liaison between Commonwealth Governments on military affairs; and economic and welfare co-operation in the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

Dr. Evatt issued a statement in London saying that the latest Ministers' discussions "have been, perhaps, the most successful talks yet held within the Commonwealth". The demand for a fixed and centralized co-ordination of policy was based on a profound misunderstanding of the history and status of the Dominions. The emphasis to-day was on decentralization, with the practice of integration for purposes such as telecommunications, wool disposal, and civil aviation.

May 24.—Speaking in the debate on Egypt in the Commons, Mr. Bevin said that in view of the feeling of the smaller Powers that, with the creation of U.N.O. they had a new status, he had recommended to the Cabinet that they should begin the negotiations on the revision of the Treaty by making a proposal to evacuate their troops and to proceed from that basis to decide what should be substituted for the exodus. He had not demanded that all the parties in Egypt should be in the negotiations because some time ago H.M.G. had declared that they would not interfere with Egypt's internal affairs. He had told the Egyptians the canal must be defended, and it was argued that Britain had promised to train the Egyptian Army and had not really done so. Relations with Egypt rested on a very narrow basis; they had never gained the gratitude of the masses of the people. They had added great wealth to Egypt, but it had never flowed down to the fellahin, so those with whom they dealt formed an extremely narrow circle.

There was now only one way for their association with the Arab countries, and that was on a basis of friendship. Mere force could not do it. Friendship spread through the Muslim world right down to India. After referring to the advice he had taken and the final responsibility of the Government in the matter, he said the difficulties were weighed in the balance against the great hope of seeing the Middle East working together as a whole with the U.K. and the rest of the Commonwealth, and ultimately woven into the regional defence as provided for in the U.N. agreement.

He could give an assurance that he would be no party to leaving a vacuum. If the Egyptian Government tried to force a situation in which there was a vacuum—so that when they had gone there was nothing there, no regional defence and no organization to take its place—he would not agree to that. But he had offered in the name of the Government a new basis of approach which was a joint effort for the mutual defence not only of the interests of Britain and the Commonwealth but in the interests ultimately of the contribution of what he hoped would yet become a United Nations' defence for the security of the world.

Defence, not offence, was the main consideration, having regard to the development of the U.N.O. As for the defence of the Commonwealth, it was not within the power of the House or of the Government to tell the Dominions that they must contribute to a common budget and supply man-power for particular purposes in peace time. This problem of defence was so vital to the whole world that it had been

discussed over and over again. He reported the matter of Egypt to certain of the Dominion Premiers who were in London, but he had never understood that the Dominions committed themselves to the 1936 Treaty. They raised no objections, but the records did not show that they ever endorsed it. He had sent to the Dominions almost every document that had arisen and asked for their opinions, and the Government had come to its decision after hearing that opinion.

*May 25.*—Dr. Evatt left for the U.S.A.

**GREECE.** *May 6.*—Nine incidents were reported in Athens and in Western Macedonia involving fighting between extremists on both sides and the police. Left-wing supporters accused the Government of having launched a "premeditated campaign for the extermination of democrats" and of encouraging terrorism by right-wing organizations. The right-wing press and Government circles accused the Communists of provoking, if not causing, every incident, as part of a plan to spread anarchy.

*May 10.*—The Prime Minister received the British and U.S. Ambassadors, who informed him that their Governments' view was that determination of the date of the plebiscite depended on the Government as soon as the revision of the electoral lists had been completed.

*May 13.*—The Regent opened Parliament, meeting for the first time for 10 years. He stated that the first and imperative task of the Government was to restore normal political life by settling the question of the régime. "In announcing now that a plebiscite for the return of his Majesty the King and the termination of abnormal conditions regarding the question of the régime will be held on September 1 this year, I have a clear consciousness of having done my duty to the people and the King."

*May 17.*—M. Tsaldaris in Parliament reviewed the country's war effort and called for the handing over of northern Epirus and the Dodecanese and the rectification of the frontier with Bulgaria. He said no claim was made for Cyprus, which was a question which concerned only Britain and Greece. Referring to the plebiscite, he said: "The Government will submit to the Chamber a draft resolution for holding a plebiscite on September 1 on the return of the King." The Government's duty was to restore order. The Communists were free to propagate their policy to any extent "but within the limits of the law and with the respect due to the State". He had confidence in the many-sided aid of the British mission, which had been of valuable help in establishing order.

*May 24.*—The Government obtained a vote of confidence in the Chamber by 209 votes to 113, with 22 abstentions.

**HUNGARY.** *May 9.*—Count Karolyi, the former President, arrived in Budapest and received an official welcome.

*May 24.*—The Government announced plans for the stabilization of the currency, under which the pengo would disappear entirely, and a

new unit, the guilder, be substituted, backed by the gold reserve, by various treasures in safe keeping abroad, and by agricultural production. A plan for rationing would be worked out and fixed prices introduced.

INDIA. *May 9.*—It was announced that the British and Indian members of the Viceroy's Executive Council had resigned in order to give the Viceroy a completely free hand in the negotiations.

*May 12.*—An official statement was issued by the Viceroy's Lodge announcing that the conference had "come to the conclusion that no use would be served by further discussions, and that therefore the conference should be brought to a conclusion. The Cabinet Mission desires to emphasize the fact that no blame can be placed on either party for the breakdown, as both sides did their utmost to come to a settlement".

The Mission and the Viceroy, in a separate statement, said that they wished to make it clear that the failure of the discussions to lead to an agreed plan did not in any way bring to an end the mission with which they were charged by the British Government and the British people.

*May 16.*—Publication of the White Paper on the future of India. (*see page 306.*)

Lord Pethwick-Lawrence, broadcasting, said: "There is a passionate desire in the heart of Indians, expressed by the leaders of all political parties, for independence. His Majesty's Government and the British people as a whole are fully ready to accord this independence whether within or without the British Commonwealth, and hope that out of it will spring a lasting and friendly association between our two peoples on a footing of complete equality." He outlined the recommendations of the Mission and the steps the Viceroy would take to summon to New Delhi representatives of British India. These recommendations were a basis on which Muslims would secure the advantages of a Pakistan without incurring the dangers inherent in the division of India. The British Government would give the fullest measure of co-operation to the interim Government to be formed. He expressed confidence that a reasonable flexibility with provision for amendment and revision would be given to any new Constitution, and concluded by saying that, if a great new sovereign State could come into being in a spirit of mutual goodwill, it would be an outstanding contribution to world stability. The Constitution had to be framed and worked by Indians. Britain would do everything possible to help them, but the responsibility, and the opportunity, were theirs.

*May 17.*—The Viceroy, broadcasting, referred to the recommendations as a "blueprint for freedom" and gave an assurance that much hard work, study, and anxious thought and all the good will and sincerity at their command had gone into the making of them. "We should have preferred that the Indian leaders should have themselves reached agreement . . . These proposals are obviously not those that any one of the parties would have chosen if left to itself. But I do believe they are a reasonable and workable basis on which to found India's future constitution. They preserve the essential unity of India

which is threatened by the dispute between the two major communities, and in particular there remains the danger of the disruption of that great fellowship of the Indian Army, to which India already owes so much and on whose strength, unity, and efficiency her future security will depend." They offered to the Muslim community the right to direct their own essential interests; the Sikhs would preserve the unity of their homeland, the Punjab; the smaller minorities would be able to make their needs known and secure protection. A means whereby the Indian States could enter, by negotiations, into a United India, was arranged. The interim Government would be a purely Indian Government, except for its head, the Governor-General. Appealing to the parties for good will, he said that it required some greatness of mind and spirit to make concessions, and that the greatest and most momentous experiment in government in the whole history of the world—a new Constitution which controlled the destiny of 400,000,000 people—was being tried.

General Auchinleck, broadcasting to the armed forces, said that he would continue to be responsible for the command and welfare of the armed forces, but all political matters would be in the hands of the new War Member under whom he would serve. He said that in the forces, Hindu, Moslem, Sikh, and Christian had learned to live together, and in this they had set an example to all India.

Mr. Gandhi commended the British Cabinet proposals to the country as containing "a seed to convert this land of sorrow into one without sorrow and suffering".

*May 18.*—A White Paper was issued containing the correspondence between the Cabinet Mission and the leaders of the two main communities. The Congress proposed that the Constituent Assembly should draw up a Constitution for federal union which would consist of an All-India Federal Government and Legislature, dealing with foreign affairs, defence, communications, fundamental rights, currency, Customs, and planning. All remaining powers to be vested in the provinces of the Union. The whole Constitution would be reconsidered after 10 years.

The Muslim League proposed that the 6 Muslim Provinces should be grouped as one group, and deal with all subjects except foreign affairs, defence, and communications necessary for defence, which might be dealt with by the constitution-making bodies of the Muslim Provinces, called the "Pakistan Group", and the Hindu Provinces sitting together. There should be a separate constitution-making body for the 6 Muslim Provinces. The question whether the Union should have a Legislature or not should be discussed by a joint meeting of the two constitution-making bodies.

The leading Sikh community decided to oppose the British proposals and called on the Sikhs "to offer effective resistance to the imposition of Pakistan over them". At Chittagong a Muslim demonstration of protest was held.

*May 21.*—Pandit Nehru said that it was becoming increasingly evident that there was a general tendency in many of the States to attack the people's movement. "I am convinced that this kind of thing cannot



take place without the support and connivance of the Political Department of the Government of India and their agents", he said.

*May 22.*—The Cabinet Mission's memorandum to the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. (*see page 309.*)

*May 24.*—The Congress Working Committee sent a copy of a resolution giving their views of the scheme to the Cabinet Mission, in which they said the picture it gave of the future was still incomplete, particularly as regards the "provisional Government". It said that while the scheme envisaged no vital change in the interim period, the Congress view was that the functioning of the provisional Government must approximate closely in fact, if not in law, to that of independence, and it raised objections to the continued presence of a "foreign army of occupation".

It also objected to the procedure by which the grouping of provinces was to be brought about, arguing that it involved an element of compulsion which infringed the basic principle of provincial autonomy.

*May 26.*—Seven persons were killed and 65 injured in riots at Bareilly, United Provinces.

**INDO-CHINA.** *May 15.*—Reports reached Saigon that Luang Prabang, the capital of Laos, had been occupied by French troops under the command of General Leclerc.

**ITALY.** *May 9.*—The King and Queen left Naples for Egypt, and Rome radio announced that the King had signed a formal act of abdication before embarking.

*May 10.*—The Crown Prince proclaimed himself King Umberto II, and promised the nation constitutional government, in which the initiative would come from Parliament.

A law, approved by the Cabinet, was published providing that future laws should bear the name of "Umberto II, King of Italy", but omitting the traditional phrase "by the grace of God and the will of the people".

*May 13.*—Signor de Gasperi, speaking at Trento, said that the people of Alto Adige were wrong to associate the new Italy with the Fascists. The new Italy was prepared to offer the German-speaking people within her frontier maximum liberty of language, of autonomy, and of representation. He said that the danger of a *coup d'état* had been overcome, which had taken the form of asking for a postponement of the elections and the referendum. The country was determined to proceed with the elections.

*May 23.*—The Government prohibited all processions the next day, and posted strong detachments of troops and police at strategic points in Rome.

*May 24.*—Royalist demonstrations in Rome led to clashes with the police. Very large crowds acclaimed King Umberto when he appeared on the balcony at the Quirinal.

**JAPAN.** *May 6.*—An officer and a camp guard were sentenced to be



hanged in Singapore for causing the death of 6 British prisoners of war.

*May 8.*—Gen. MacArthur ordered the Government to notify the Eire Government that the Japanese Consul-General in Dublin "no longer holds his official position".

*May 12.*—Baron Shidehara refused to recommend to the Emperor that the Socialists alone should be permitted to form a Cabinet. The executive committee of the Social Democrats refused to take part in any coalition Government with the Progressives or Liberals.

*May 13.*—Mr. Chifley arrived in Tokyo.

*May 15.*—Mr. Yoshida, Foreign Minister and former Ambassador to London, accepted the leadership of the Liberal Party.

*May 16.*—A coalition Government of Liberals and Progressives was formed under the premiership of Mr. Yoshida.

*May 20.*—General MacArthur issued a statement that "physical violence" by "undisciplined elements would not be permitted to continue" and that if it continued he would be forced to take steps to remedy the situation.

Mr. Yoshida announced the formation of his Cabinet, as follows: Home Minister, Mr. Omura (Non-party); Finance, Mr. Ishibashi (Liberal); Justice, Mr. Iwata (Non-party); Education, Mr. Tanaka (Non-party); Welfare, Mr. Kawai (Non-party); Agriculture, Mr. Nasu (Non-party); Commerce, Mr. Soshijima (Liberal); Transport, Mr. Hiratsuka (Liberal). Ministers without portfolio were: Baron Shidehara, Mr. Saito, Mr. Sujiro, and Mr. Ishimatsu.

A small Communist delegation that had occupied the Premier's residence were evicted by the Tokyo police.

*May 21.*—Allied H.Q. demanded the elimination of Mr. Iwata and Mr. Nasu from the Cabinet. Mr. Kimura and Mr. Wada replaced them.

**JAVA.** *May 8.*—Dr. van Mook arrived in Batavia.

*May 17.*—Dutch forces entered Sepong and extended their perimeter six miles westwards from Batavia, relieving 350 Japanese. It was learnt that 3,000 British troops had left Batavia the week before and that a further 3,000 would be ready to leave soon. The Dutch had taken over control of Samarang from the British.

**LIBYA.** *May 15.*—The leader of the Senussi cabled to the four Ministers' conference in Paris protesting against the proposal to place Tripolitania under Italian trusteeship, and demanding for it a "free plebiscite according to the U.N. Charter".

**MALAYA.** *May 22.*—Mr. Malcolm Macdonald was installed as the first Governor-General of the Malayan Union and Singapore. He said that the carrying out of policy would be entirely the responsibility of the Governors of the respective territories, and "I shall not interfere with their direct access to the Colonial Office". No Sultans attended the ceremony.

*May 23.*—Malays, bearing banners with the inscriptions "Down

with the Malayan Union", greeted the two British M.P.s visiting the capital of Johore State.

**THE NETHERLANDS.** *May 7.*—The Nazi leader, Mussert, was executed.

*May 8.*—Mr. Churchill arrived in Amsterdam as the guest of Queen Wilhelmina.

*May 9.*—Mr. Churchill addressed a joint meeting of the States General. After paying tribute to the stout resistance of the Dutch people to the Germans he affirmed the sanctity of the rights of smaller States. He went on to say that two supreme tasks confronted them: first, the restoration and rebuilding of Europe, both physical and moral, animated by the kindred themes of liberty and democracy, and he cited certain simple practical tests by which the virtue and reality of any political democracy could be measured; secondly, the building of a world instrument of security in which all peoples, great or small, had an interest. There could be nothing but advantage to the whole world from the underlying unity between the British Commonwealth and the U.S.A. He hoped that Britain's 20 years' treaty with Russia would prove one of the sure anchors of world peace, and that the natural unity and alliance between Britain and France might find reaffirmation in a formal instrument. "I see no reason", he concluded, "why, under the guardianship of a world organization, there should not ultimately arise a United States of Europe, both of the east and of the west, which may unify the continent. . . ."

*May 16.*—An agreement with the British Government was announced providing for the export of some 40,000 tons of vegetables to the British zone of Germany.

*May 17.*—The General Election was held.

*May 18.*—The Election results were: Catholic People's Party, 32 seats; Labour Party, 29; Anti-revolutionary Party, 13; Communists, 10; Christian Historical Union, 8; Freedom Party, 6; and State Reformed Party, 2.

The Prime Minister handed the resignation of the Government to the Queen. (He was the leader of the Labour Party.)

**NEWFOUNDLAND.** *May 8.*—An agreement was concluded with Canada and Great Britain providing that control of the air bases at Gander, Gleneagles, and Botwood should be handed back to Newfoundland.

**PALESTINE.** *May 6.*—Jamal Husseini, Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee, stated that King Ibn Saud had cabled to him describing the findings of the Palestine Committee as "unsurpassed injustice". Husseini added that "our only hope is to face East. The West has completely sold us out to the Jews".

*May 10.*—Two Jews were sentenced to 3 and 4 years' imprisonment at Jerusalem for carrying explosives at Tel Aviv on March 25.

Protest to the U.S. Government against the Palestine Report. (*see U.S.A.*)

May 13.—A British destroyer intercepted and brought into Haifa the steamer *Smyrna*, carrying 1,662 Jewish refugees trying to enter Palestine illegally.

May 19.—Two refugee ships which were intercepted off the coast of Italy in April and were detained at Spezia, arrived at Haifa and landed 1,014 Jewish refugees.

May 24.—The Arab Higher Committee announced that the Arabs would not reply to the request of the British and U.S. Governments for their views on the recommendations of the Report, and that the following were their demands: the immediate abrogation of the Mandate, the cessation at once of all Jewish immigration and sales of land to Jews; the establishment of a democratic Arab State; and the evacuation of all foreign troops from the country.

PERSIA. May 7.—Hussein Ala's letter to the Security Council. (*see The Security Council Meeting.*)

May 10.—Negotiations with the Azerbaijan delegation ended in a stalemate, but M. Pishevari later called on the Prime Minister and agreed to reopen discussions.

May 11.—Tabriz radio announced that negotiations with the Government had broken down, and declared that "the Azerbaijan nation will not submit to the tyranny of the central Government. During the past 20 years this nation has attempted to gain freedom, but has not wanted fratricide. The Azerbaijan national army is now ready to fight against the enemies of freedom . . . Our representatives in Teheran tried to be reasonable . . . now they are returning, and we are ready for any eventuality . . . the fault is that of the central Government, which does not want to remove those elements which are seeking to destroy Persia. Now we are announcing to all nations that we are ready to fight. . . ."

In Teheran several Cabinet Ministers threatened to resign if the Premier decided to exceed the concessions already offered to Azerbaijan.

May 13.—The Premier broadcast a statement blaming "unconstitutional demands" by M. Pishevari for the breakdown of negotiations with Azerbaijan, but said the talks would be resumed later.

May 14.—M. Pishevari, broadcasting, said that he had told the Prime Minister that Azerbaijan was not going to separate from Persia, and that "if a constitutional Government for Persia were formed, we would dissolve the Tabriz Majlis and forget self-government". Qawam es Sultani had only replied that all difficulties would be over once the new Parliament was elected, and that Azerbaijan should elect deputies to that Parliament as soon as possible. M. Pishevari said that he had demanded the disbanding of the gendarmerie, a reduction in the size of the Persian army, and the sharing out of Government lands among the peasants.

May 18.—The Prime Minister cabled to the Secretary-General of U.N.O. to say that the Government would report to the Security

Council on the withdrawal of Soviet troops "as soon as it is in a position to do so", but indicated that it would not be able to give it detailed information on the subject by May 20, as asked to do by the resolution of May 8.

A Government mission instructed to report whether the withdrawal was completed arrived at Tabriz.

*May 19.*—Tabriz radio reported that Government troops had attacked Azerbaijan from Kurdistan. A military government was formed in Tabriz and a curfew imposed.

Other Tabriz reports stated that all Soviet troops had left Persia, but that it was not certain that all equipment had gone. Reports were also current that Government troops were moving north along the Caspian shore and into south Kurdistan.

Gen. Aman-Lah Jahanbani, a leading Russophile, was appointed Chief-of-Staff.

The U.S. Consul advised American citizens to leave Azerbaijan.

M. Pishevari said, "Although we are on a war footing, I have confidence in the friendly intentions of Qawam-es-Sultani and am convinced that the Teheran conversations failed because of certain reactionaries around him". He denied that the Russians were giving "material support" to the autonomy movement.

*May 20.*—The War Ministry denied that fighting was going on in Kurdistan and Azerbaijan and added that no orders had been sent to Persian commanders for an attack. Reports of fighting with Azerbaijan were untrue. Until the conclusion of negotiations a mission of Government officials and of representatives from Tabriz would be present on the frontier to maintain order.

*May 21.*—The Government announced that the Red Army left Azerbaijan on May 6. The Premier sent to M. Pishevari a copy of the telegram dispatched to the C.-in-C. in Kurdistan, which stated "I have repeatedly told you to hold your present positions and not to attack. Non-compliance will lead to court-martial".

*May 22.*—Tabriz radio announced that on the invitation of the Premier M. Pishevari had sent a mission to Teheran which would accompany a Teheran mission to the frontier area to report on the fighting.

*May 24.*—Prince Firouz told the press that "statements made by Hussein Ala in no way represent the views of the Government, and no such instructions were sent to him . . . He has been instructed by M. Qawam to refrain from making such statements in future".

The Premier issued a statement announcing that the complete evacuation of Persian soil by May 9 had now been "certified".

**POLAND.** *May 3.*—Student demonstrations at Cracow led to the closing of the university. Over 400 arrests were made. The students were accused of firing into the crowd and at the headquarters of the Communist Party, and of raising cries of "Down with President Bierut", and "Long live Gen. Anders".

*May 10.*—Suspension of deliveries against U.S. credit. (*see U.S.A.*)

*May 13.*—The Ministry of Public Security announced that in 2 areas, one in Warsaw county and one in Kielce, the activities of the Peasant Party had been prohibited and its leaders arrested for taking part in attacks on the police and on Red Army property and other crimes. It was believed that about 2 divisions of a secret terrorist organization were in hiding in the forests and mountains.

*May 15.*—It was reported that the frontier village of Lupkow had been set on fire in the fighting between Polish Government forces and the "Benderovci". Official figures showed that during April 6, 952 people had been killed by "terrorist bands supported by reactionaries from abroad", and that 191 terrorist bands had been liquidated.

*May 18.*—It was learnt that the British Ambassador had protested against a "particularly inappropriate and offensive" speech made by M. Gomolka, vice-Premier, who had alleged on April 30 that U.N.R.R.A. food was used to influence votes in the Greek and Italian elections, that thousands of tons of grain were being sent to Germany by U.N.R.R.A., that Italy had received 240,000 tons of food a month, and that U.N.R.R.A. was hostile to Polish democracy. The Ambassador's Note drew attention to the sacrifices Britain was making to help needy countries, and pointed out that of the 200,000 tons of grain diverted, 70,000 had gone to U.N.R.R.A. and 17,000 of this to Poland. "If Britain's efforts on Poland's behalf are to be met by statements like M. Gomolka's, Britain will reserve her aid in future for those who know how to appreciate it."

*May 22.*—Mr. Bevin's statement in Parliament. (*see Great Britain.*)

*May 23.*—Delegation to Moscow. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

**RUMANIA.** *May 17.*—Antonescu, the former Premier, was sentenced to death.

*May 18.*—Thirty former Ministers and Under-Secretaries were arrested.

**SARAWAK.** *May 15.*—Mr. Hull, in reply to a question in Parliament in London, said that the Tuan Muda, the Rajah's brother, had agreed to accept the decision of the State Council on the question of the cession to the British Crown.

*May 16.*—The State Council voted by a majority of two in favour of cession. The voting was as follows: for: natives 11, Europeans 6, Chinese 1; against: natives 13, Europeans 2, Chinese 1.

*May 22.*—Statement by Colonial Secretary. (*see Great Britain.*)

**SIAM.** *May 26.*—Reports from Bangkok indicated that French troops had crossed the border from Indo-China at two points and that Thabo had been occupied. A Government *communiqué* reported that U.N.O. had been informed of the alleged French action and that an appeal had been made to the British and U.S. Legations to intervene.

**SPAIN.** *May 6.*—Statement in Parliament *re* Germans and German property in Spain. (*see Great Britain.*)

*May 13.*—Sir Victor Mallet protested to the Foreign Minister about the unsatisfactory co-operation in handing over German assets and the rate at which Germans on the black list were being handed over for repatriation. Out of 2,500 on this list, less than 300 had been handed over.

*May 14.*—General Franco, opening the Cortes, declared that there was no political problem awaiting solution in Spain. She would never evolve on lines dictated from outside. His régime, he claimed, was authentic, because it was created by bullets, not by ballot, and democratic because it was Catholic. "We are no more Fascist than we are Communist. We are Catholic Democrats and Syndicalists." When outside attacks ceased, and when the foundation of the régime was solid, he would submit the necessary laws to Parliament for discussion and for final acceptance by the people by referendum. He went on to say that when Poland was invaded by Germany Spain tried to prevent the dismemberment of Catholic Poland, but her efforts were in vain. Spain had refused to allow the passage of German troops through her territory and so had saved England. Her attitude to France had been noble and generous, as she had not taken advantage of the situation when French resistance collapsed, even though she knew that France would have demanded the Balearic Islands if Spain had entered the war on Germany's side and been defeated. France repaid this by permitting a raid by Spanish guerrillas on Val d'Aran in 1944, and now by closing the frontier.

*May 18.*—Sentences of long terms of imprisonment were passed on 12 Communists for conspiring against the State and attempting to reorganize the party.

**SWEDEN.** *May 20.*—Financial discussions. (*see Great Britain.*)

**SWITZERLAND.** *May 21.*—An agreement was reached with France, Britain, and U.S.A. about the division of German holdings in Switzerland, and about gold received by Switzerland from Germany. The proceeds of the liquidation would be turned over to the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency.

**SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.** *May 14.*—The Syrian Government denied rumours that the Soviet Minister had told the Syrian Government that Russia would back the Arab case if the Arab League brought the Palestine problem before the United Nations.

*May 17.*—Two Lebanese Ministers belonging to the Independent Party resigned.

*May 18.*—The Lebanon Government resigned.

*May 22.*—A Lebanese Ministry was formed with M. Saadi Munla as Premier and Minister of National Economy, M. Gabriel Murr as Deputy Premier, and M. Philippe Teca as Foreign Minister.

**TRANSJORDAN.** *May 25.*—The independence of Transjordan was formally announced in Amman and the Emir acknowledged as King.



U.S.A. *May 6.*—President Truman received a letter from the King of Egypt.

*May 7.*—The Australian Prime Minister arrived in Washington.

The Government invited 11 countries, including Russia, to send 2 representatives to observe the atom bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

The Acting Secretary of State announced that the English Government had confirmed its readiness to conclude an agreement for opening to civil aircraft the bases which the U.S.A. had leased for 99 years. It covered bases at Bermuda, Antigua, St. Lucia, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica.

*May 9.*—Mr. Chifley left for Japan. He told the press that he personally approved of the British decision to evacuate Egypt, but could not speak for his Cabinet. As regards problems of defence, Australia was most desirous of continued American interest in the Pacific, and wished to have over-all consideration of defence problems.

*May 10.*—The Senate approved the Anglo-American financial agreement by 46 votes to 34. Most of the adverse votes were from the South and Middle West.

The Government suspended deliveries to Poland under the credit of \$50 million because they were not convinced that the Polish Government was fulfilling its obligations in connection with it, in particular the promise to allow freedom to the foreign press to report on election proceedings. (A telegram from a U.S. press correspondent had failed to reach the U.S.)

The Acting Secretary of State received from the representatives of Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia a memorandum declaring that the recommendations of the Palestine Committee violated the promises given to the Arabs by President Roosevelt early in 1945. Mr. Acheson informed the Ministers that the Committee's recommendations were being studied, and they could be assured that the U.S.A. had every intention of consulting with Arabs and Jews before making any definite decisions regarding the Report.

Mr. Hoover arrived in San Francisco from his world tour. He told the press that the world was faced with the greatest potential famine in human history. In the famine areas of 27 countries there were only 30 to 60 days' supply of food.

*May 11.*—Mr. Herbert Lehman presented to President Truman a petition signed by 100 prominent Americans asking him to use his war powers to requisition enough foodstuffs to double U.S. contributions to famine relief.

*May 12.*—Mr. Herbert Morrison arrived in Washington.

*May 14.*—Lord Halifax sailed for England.

Mr. Dean Acheson informed the press that conversations had been proceeding for some time between the U.S.A. and Britain relating to installations and bases constructed during the war and in which the joint Chiefs of Staff had a continuing interest on the Pacific islands of Canton, Christmas, and Funafuti.

Mr. Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury, giving evidence before the

Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives, said that if the loan to Britain were rejected "our trade with Britain and the sterling area will become a mere trickle". It would mean that Egyptian and Indian cotton, Rhodesian and Near Eastern tobacco, British automobiles and machinery would replace American cotton, tobacco, automobiles, and machinery. The loan was necessary for good economic relationships and to give a fighting chance for a lasting peace.

Mr. Hoover issued his report, in which he suggested totals of cereals required as a minimum between May and September. The figures were: Europe 8,390,000 tons, Latin America 1,000,000, South Africa and New Zealand 198,000, the Middle East 100,000, Indian Ocean area 2,886,000, and Pacific Ocean area 1,910,000; total, 14,484,000 tons. His estimate of probable supplies was U.S.A., 4,220,000 tons; Canada, 2,300,000; Australia, 992,000; U.K., 200,000; Argentina, 2,375,000; Brazil, 200,000; elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere, 40,000; Burma, 75,000; Siam, 195,000; Russia (to France) 300,000; total, 10,897,000 tons. China's requirements were 500,000 tons a month, but the Chinese Government was unable to transport more than 200,000 into the famine areas owing to lack of transport.

Mr. Hoover told the press that he had found no widespread starvation, but that few of the deficit countries had more than a 30 days' supply of food. He had the impression that Russia could offer some help to Eastern Europe and to Manchuria. He considered rationing in the U.S.A. to be unnecessary.

*May 15.*—Admiral Leahy left for London to confer with the British Chiefs of Staff on plans for the withdrawal of American troops from Pacific areas "now within the cognizance of the British command". Mr. Morrison, in a broadcast, appealed to the American people to see that food was got into the right mouths at the right time. He said that if no more imports arrived in Germany before the next harvest, distribution of bread and other grain products would stop by May 27. This would mean that Germans would get only 450 calories a day. Coal, which was vital to the economic reconstruction of Europe, would then not be mined. Political problems would be multiplied. Denying charges that Britain had large stocks of wheat lying idle, he said: "At the end of next month our pipeline stocks will be less than 10 per cent of the normal before the war".

*May 17.*—Mr. Morrison announced at a press conference that he had agreed to Britain surrendering a further 200,000 tons of grain from her stocks before the end of September. No request for replacement had been made to the U.S.A. It had been agreed that the same standard of rationing should be established for the British and American zones in Germany.

Mr. Hoover, broadcasting, said that on the present estimates of supplies about 100 million people would be reduced to a 2,000-calorie level; about 100 million to a 1,800-calorie level; about 150 million to a 1,200-calorie level; and about 300 million to a 900-calorie level. He said there were between 20-30 million physically subnormal children in Europe.

May 18.—Mr. Byrnes and Senators Vandenberg and Connally arrived back from Paris.

May 20.—Mr. Byrnes, broadcasting, said that, if the peace conference were not convened in the summer, the U.S.A. would ask the U.N. Assembly to make recommendations on peace treaties for Europe. Although progress at Paris had been "disappointingly small", at any rate the Ministers had got to know what the basic points of difference were. He contested the Russian argument that the "big four" must agree on all topics considered fundamental by any one of them before the peace conference could meet.

Other points were that: the U.S.A. had already advanced directly or indirectly \$900 million to Italy; it was his impression that agreement on reparations and the colonies, as well as a host of other questions, would not be long delayed if only a solution of the Trieste problem could be found; all were agreed that Yugoslavia and the countries of central Europe should have free access to Trieste, which should be a free port under international control; if the Soviet Government were opposed to the formation of exclusive political and economic *blocs*, they should not persist in their refusal to permit the countries of Central Europe to open their gates to the commerce of all nations; M. Stalin had said at the Moscow Conference that he would support wholeheartedly a 25-year Four Power Treaty to keep Germany disarmed, so it was hoped the Soviet Government after further consideration would support the idea.

May 21.—President Truman ordered the Secretary of the Interior to operate the soft coal mines.

The report to the Security Council Committee on Spain was issued. The Government condemned the non-co-operative attitude of Gen. Franco's Government in repatriating Germans from Spain. It added: "Apart from unconfirmed reports that one uranium mine may be in production the U.S. Government has no evidence confirming rumoured activities in Spain relating to the production of atomic energy."

May 22.—The State Department announced that the immediate transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine stood as the policy of the Government.

May 24.—A strike of 250,000 railwaymen paralysed nearly all services throughout the country. President Truman described it as a strike against the Government. The Office of Defence Transportation ordered the mobilization, under control of its agencies, of all air, highway, and water carriers.

A State Department spokesman denied Mr. Morrison's statement that the U.S.A. had committed itself to keeping rations in the British zone in Germany up to the level of the U.S. zone, and said that, regarding India, it had only said it would do the best it could.

May 25.—The British Embassy made informal representations to the State Department concerning the statement denying the truth of Mr. Morrison's statement in Parliament about food supplies for India and the British zone of Germany.

President Truman told Congress that unless the railways were

manned by returning strikers he would undertake to run them by the Army. It had become a strike against the Government. He interrupted his speech to announce that the strike had ended.

The House of Representatives, by an overwhelming majority, voted to support the President's request that temporary legislation should be enacted making it a criminal offence for union leaders to incite a strike against the Government.

U.S.S.R. *May 18.*—The chief of the U.N.R.R.A. mission to the Ukraine stated in Moscow that there had been a drought there for 2 months, and food stocks were almost exhausted. Less than half of a U.N.R.R.A. programme valued at over £47 million had been delivered. Of 20 shiploads received, 19 came from the U.S.A. The loss of farm machinery had been very serious; out of 100,000 tractors 60,000 had been removed or destroyed.

*May 21.*—The Moscow wireless broadcast Marshal Stalin's reply to President Truman's letter asking for Russian help in meeting the world food crisis. He said he regretted that the request had not been made three months earlier, when they could have done something about it. Russia had now assigned food stocks to France and other countries, and her resources were already being exhausted. The Soviet Government had no objection in principle to co-operating with other grain exporting countries, but this proposal would require special study.

*May 23.*—A Polish delegation led by President Bierut and including the Prime Minister and National Defence Minister arrived in Moscow.

YUGOSLAVIA. *May 12.*—Marshal Tito, speaking at Zagreb, said they had presented their claim for the incorporation of Trieste and Venezia Giulia at the conference of the Great Powers on ethnical, economic, and national grounds. The great Powers came to the conclusion that only ethnical grounds were to be considered, but "I do not believe", he said, "in the sincerity of the ethnical principle in the case of Venezia Giulia. The real reasons are strategic, but to the disadvantage of our country. We cannot yield in our demands. . . ."

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

May 6.—In the Foreign Ministers' Conference M. Molotov proposed that if Yugoslavia were given the Julian March and Greece were given the Dodecanese both countries should forgo their claims for reparations from Italy. It was pointed out to him that all the Ministers had agreed in principle the previous week that the Dodecanese should be handed over to Greece; but over the Julian March there was no such agreement.

M. Molotov thought that, subject to agreement over the Julian March, something similar to the French plan for the Italian colonies might be considered (i.e. that Italy should be the administering Power under U.N. trusteeship). He also said that to deprive the Julian March of its port and western regions would ruin its economy and cut Trieste off from its natural hinterland.

Mr. Bevin objected to this bargaining, and pointed out that the Foreign Ministers had agreed in September that the new frontier should in the main follow the ethnic line. A satisfactory compromise could easily be reached among the 3 lines suggested by Britain, France, and America, and one leaving Trieste and other western communities in Italy would be a fair solution. As to the colonies, there was room for agreement between the U.S. proposal and the British (Libyan independence and trusteeship over Somalia).

M. Molotov said Britain only wanted to establish her own influence in Libya behind a fair-seeming screen, but Mr. Bevin recalled that during the war Britain assured the Senussi that they would never again come under Italian rule, and she stood by that promise. In any case, the people's wishes should be taken into account before any decision was made.

May 7.—The Conference dealt with the Rumanian treaty, and decided that the Vienna award of Aug. 30, 1940 should be declared null and void and the frontier with Hungary re-established as it was on Jan. 1, 1938. It also decided that a clause in the treaty should declare all Fascist organizations dissolved.

Mr. Byrnes, supported by Mr. Bevin, proposed that the Danube should be declared, under international guarantees, open to shipping and trade of all countries, and that all nationals should have equal access to trade, industry, and raw materials in Rumania.

M. Molotov argued against both proposals, and the matter was dropped without agreement.

The Bulgarian and Hungarian treaties were then discussed. When Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Bevin proposed that foreign troops should be withdrawn from Bulgaria as soon as possible, M. Molotov said Russia needed to safeguard her lines of communication for her troops in Austria, and the Danube along Bulgaria's frontier was one such vital line. The question was not settled.

Mr. Byrnes said that Hungary's economic plight would prevent her paying the reparations asked by Russia, but M. Molotov replied that Russia had helped Hungary in several ways, e.g. had extended the

period in which payments could be made from 6 to 8 years, and had made a trade agreement with her. Could not America help more? He was informed that Hungarian assets valued at \$3,000 million—10 times the reparations demanded—still remained in the U.S. zone in Germany and Austria. Mr. Byrnes said his Government had received no request for the return of any of these assets. There was \$32 million in Frankfurt held in trust, which his Government would not touch but would see it was returned to the rightful owners. After further discussion Mr. Byrnes repeated that he considered the reparations claim was exorbitant, and the matter was left there.

The Combined Food Board met in Washington. The Secretary for Agriculture stated that it would be "difficult" for the U.S.A. to redeem its food promises to the famine countries. It was announced that India would get 265,000 tons of cereals in May against a minimum estimated need of 500,000 tons. The Indian Agent-General presented India's case, and stated afterwards that they must import 679,000 tons monthly to maintain a minimum ration of 9½ oz. of bread daily, or more than 100 million people would face starvation.

Mr. Acheson told the press that their May shipments were already much behind schedule, and the deficit in wheat shipments for the year now stood at over 700,000 tons.

*May 8.*—In the Four-Power Conference Mr. Byrnes suggested that the four deputies be asked to draw up a balance sheet on the state of the draft treaties with Italy, Finland, and the Balkan countries, showing the points on which agreement had been reached and the views of the four delegations. If this was done, the Ministers should at once convoke the wider peace conference for June 15.

M. Bidault supported this in principle. Mr. Bevin said that one or two committees dealing with economic and financial clauses for the treaties and with the Franco-Italian frontier had not yet reported, and they had better wait for this.

M. Molotov maintained that in Moscow in December they had agreed to convoke the wider conference "when the preparation of all the drafts has been completed", so he would agree to the proposal only if the drafts were "prepared" before June 15. Mr. Byrnes said it was not essential to arrive at a final draft for each treaty before opening the conference, since the other nations would in any case have their own views to put forward. The four Ministers ought not to refuse to present the drafts to the wider conference simply because they themselves had disagreed. Mr. Bevin supported Mr. Byrnes for the most part, saying they had never intended in Moscow to suggest that the draft treaties had to be absolutely complete before going to the wider conference.

In the end, the Ministers accepted the proposal that the deputies should draw up a balance sheet.

The Conference received the report of the sub-committee set up to examine Italy's capacity to pay reparations. This stated that no final agreement had been reached, and the Ministers acknowledged that they also could not agree.

*May 9.*—M. Molotov tabled an amendment to Mr. Byrnes's pro-



posals: that the four should meet again on June 5, examine the work done by their deputies, try to reach agreement on the drafts, and then fix the date, if possible, for the wider conference. He asked how the latter could possibly work if it was faced with different drafts, and by whom would the treaties be signed. The treaties were not to be decided by a majority vote in the larger conference, though the 21 nations had the right to make recommendations.

Mr. Byrnes maintained that the balance sheet gave them some reason to hope they might reach agreement before June 15; but if they failed, that ought not to prevent the Governments of the world from going ahead to consider the peace treaties. He believed that, once the four Ministers had received the recommendations of the larger conference, they could agree. In the letter he had sent to M. Bidault on Jan. 12 he had explained that the conference would have full powers of discussion and recommendation, and that the four Foreign Ministers would take their final decisions on the drafts only after giving the fullest consideration to those recommendations. M. Molotov's proposal seemed to suggest that unless they first reached agreement on fundamental issues which now divided them there would be no peace conference. He himself thought they ought to try to reach agreement on the outstanding questions, then meet 3 days before June 15, and present the position frankly to the larger conference. As a compromise he proposed that they should agree to differ on the first drafts and submit them to the conference on the strict understanding that they must agree on the final drafts.

M. Bidault said he thought there was a good chance of reducing the difference between Mr. Byrnes's and M. Molotov's proposals, and the discussion ended.

The U.N.R.R.A. Council meeting opened in Washington: Mr. La Guardia stated that if the nations that had food shared it fairly with the others there would be enough to keep everyone alive. The Chinese delegate reported that there were now 30 million Chinese starving. U.N.R.R.A. food shipments received in the first quarter of 1946 represented 1 day's rations for that number of people.

May 10.—The four Ministers discussed the question whether the peace conference could receive treaty drafts still unfinished. M. Molotov considered that if their differences were allowed to be openly discussed there it would tend to undermine the practice of great Power leadership. Also, the 18 other nations to take part might separate into two groups, and the danger of having separate treaties would be increased.

Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Bevin said that, as there was no certainty that the western views on the treaties could be reconciled with Soviet views before the conference, they ought not to hold up the work of peace making indefinitely, but fix now the date for the conference. This would spur the Ministers to reach agreement before it, and if they were still disagreed when they entered the conference they would be given the benefit of world opinion during it and could much more easily agree afterwards in the light of the recommendations of the conference.

Mr. Byrnes proposed June 15 as the date for the conference, the four Ministers to meet 3 days before that. M. Molotov proposed that they should meet on June 5, and then, when agreed on the draft, fix the date for the conference. Mr. Bevin suggested that the four of them should allow the unfinished drafts to go to the conference on the strict understanding that they must agree afterwards. Meanwhile they should examine their difficulties again and try to give new practical directives to their deputies to help them to harmonize the drafts.

M. Bidault said the French delegation had lost faith in fixed dates. They ought to take up Mr. Bevin's proposal for examining their differences again, and that done, they should fix a date for their own next meeting, and once met again they should fix the date for the conference.

M. Molotov denied that he had ever suggested they should complete the drafts "down to the last comma", but still maintained that they must agree on all fundamental issues before calling in the other nations. But he would agree to any date provided that the other 3 Ministers accepted his contention that the drafts must first be complete.

Later, the Ministers adopted Mr. Bevin's suggestion, and then discussed the Italian treaty. M. Molotov said he was now willing to withdraw the claim for trusteeship over Tripolitania and to accept, with only a few changes, the French plan for giving Italy the trusteeship over all her former colonies. Mr. Bevin said he was ready to accept, as a compromise on his previous proposals, the suggestion that Tripolitania should be put under Italian trusteeship, provided that Britain received the trusteeship for Cyrenaica, which he was not willing to see returned to Italy. No decision was taken.

A discussion on Trieste revealed the same conflict of views as before.

*May 11.*—In the discussion on the Italian treaty, M. Molotov said the question of the Dodecanese must be settled in the light of territorial decisions elsewhere. On the subject of reparations Mr. Byrnes said he was anxious to meet the Russian requirements, if at all possible, and suggested that most of it could be met from 4 categories; the capital equipment of war factories, Italian assets in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, merchant vessels, and warships.

M. Molotov said warships were war booty, and could not be classed as items on the reparations account. He also doubted whether the value of the merchant vessels suggested was as high as was estimated. Mr. Bevin said that Italy's capacity to pay back some of the money advanced in relief should be considered before decisions on reparations could be taken. Italy had received goods to a value of £165 million from the U.K., U.S.A., and Canada, and U.N.R.R.A. had given £100 million. No agreement was reached.

*May 13.*—Further discussion of the Italian treaty showed no progress towards agreement on any point.

*May 14.*—The Ministers passed all their disputes on the Italian treaty back to their deputies, to try to reduce the differences before the next meeting. Mr. Byrnes proposed, however, that they should at once sign the revised armistice terms already agreed to in principle, and also

asked that Austria should be included in the agenda for the June meeting. M. Molotov objected to this, as to add another matter to their work would only increase their differences. Mr. Bevin agreed to the proposal regarding the armistice.

The Ministers agreed that the deputies should consider minor changes in the South Tirol frontier. Mr. Bevin announced that since the news appeared that Tripolitania might be put under Italian trusteeship (as he had suggested) he had received telegrams from local leaders, from the Mufti, the Grand Qadi, and the president of the Jewish community all protesting against the proposal.

M. Molotov said the British pledge to the Senussi did not preclude the Italian trusteeship over Cyrenaica; it simply ruled out a resumption of Italian sovereignty, but Mr. Bevin strongly disputed this interpretation of the pledge.

At another meeting M. Molotov asked whether the Italian treaty would contain a provision for the immediate withdrawal of all allied troops, and made an offer that if all troops were pledged to be withdrawn his Government would be ready to discuss the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Bulgaria, leaving the Danubian line of communication protected only from the Rumanian side.

Mr. Bevin said the true parallel was between Italy and Rumania and Hungary. Allied troops were in Italy to guard lines of communication from the Middle East to Austria. The Soviet desire to have troops in Rumania and Hungary had been acknowledged by the Foreign Ministers in London, with the idea that on the conclusion of the peace treaties the two countries should be freed of troops except for those needed to protect l. of c. to Austria. But in London they had agreed that all troops would be withdrawn from Bulgaria without qualification. It was only in Paris that M. Molotov suddenly stated that Russia wished to keep troops in Bulgaria because they also were needed for guarding lines to Austria. If they could reach a settlement with Austria all these troubles over l. of c. would disappear.

Mr. Byrnes supported this, but M. Molotov said they had been discussing 5 treaties for 9 months without concluding their work, and it would not facilitate it if they added a sixth. The meeting adjourned.

May 15.—The four Ministers began consideration of the question of Germany. Mr. Byrnes challenged the working of the Potsdam decisions, saying that, while industries were being dismantled for reparations, in accordance with one part of those decisions, the part declaring that Germany should be treated as an economic unit was not being fulfilled, and the Powers had no clear picture before them of the political future of Germany. He suggested that the Ministers should appoint special full-time deputies who would be given 5 basic questions, to be answered at the June 15 meeting. They would be: (1) Whatever the future of the Ruhr and Rhineland, would the industrial resources remain as part of the German economic structure? (2) Would all industrial resources be used for the benefit of Germany as a whole and not be restricted to the limits of the 4 zones, and would surplus resources be used for exports, to pay for essential imports? (3) Could agreement be reached within the

next 90 days for setting up central administrations to help in keeping Germany as an economic unit? (4) Would the existing boundaries between the zones remain simply as occupation divisions and not as barriers to reasonable trade movements? (5) Could a tentative agreement be reached for including in the peace treaty a clause defining the western boundaries of Germany?

He was advised that there would be chaos in the U.S. zone if factories continued to be dismantled, and it would create a financial liability which his Government was not ready to shoulder. The U.S. Administration had already paid \$200 million in food and other essentials to keep their zone going, and it estimated that another equal sum would be needed before July, 1947.

M. Bidault put forward the French plans for the Ruhr and Rhineland and the Saar. The Ruhr must be a separate political entity under international supervision, within which, however, there would be a large measure of self-government for the population. The left bank of the Rhine should be permanently demilitarized, and the Rhineland might form an independent State, with Allied troops in garrison. The Saar would be brought within the French economic system.

Mr. Bevin said Britain differed on only one point: they could not agree that political separation would be wise or effective.

Later the Ministers decided to give Italy some immediate relief, and agreed on revised armistice terms. The British and U.S. delegates urged that a settlement with Austria should be discussed at the June session, but M. Molotov refused, and the matter was left to "diplomatic exchanges".

*May 16.*—The Ministers ended their conference, after initialling the Italian armistice terms. They instructed their deputies to meet on May 27 to hear French and Italian views on the proposed changes in the Alpes Maritimes frontier, and on May 30 to hear Austrian and Italian views on the South Tirol frontier.

Discussions on Germany ended in complete disagreement. M. Bidault asked that agreement should at least be reached that the Saar should be brought within the French economic and customs system. Mr. Byrnes had no objections to French desires for the Saar, but asked that France should first agree to the Potsdam recommendations for establishing central German administrations, and also to his suggestions made the previous day.

Mr. Bevin said they must consider Germany as a whole, and all her future frontiers must be dealt with together. No final decision had been taken on the Oder-Neisse line. The same arguments applied to economic matters. There were plans for nationalizing industries in the British zone, but he could not give the British views precisely till he knew what was happening in the other ones. As to the Ruhr, its resources could be made to serve not only Germany, but Europe as a whole. Other countries, such as Holland and Belgium, must be consulted before any decision was made.

He expressly approved Mr. Byrnes's proposal for a 25-year joint control of Germany after the period of occupation was ended. M.

Bidault agreed with the suggestion for appointing special deputies to study the whole German problem, and Mr. Bevin submitted a proposal similar to that of Mr. Byrnes, but simpler, providing for the submission, by the special deputies, of an interim report to the Council meeting on June 15.

M. Molotov refused to accept the proposals of either Mr. Byrnes or Mr. Bevin. He was opposed to the appointment of special deputies, and the discussion ended in deadlock.

May 20.—A conference, or working session, of the Food and Agricultural Organization opened in Washington, and was attended by representatives of 17 countries and 5 international organizations. Sir John Orr said the existing scarcity was only the first phase of a scarcity which would continue long after the organizations such as U.N.R.R.A. and the Combined Food Board had ceased to exist. They must get an agreement leading to immediate action on a 4- or 5-year world programme. The F.A.O. was the only international body with the authority to act beyond the end of 1946.

There would be a shortage of grain until after the 1948 harvest, and after that a scarcity of animal products owing to the diversion of cereals to direct human consumption. The situation was grave; famine was "the greatest politician of all", he said. "Peace cannot be built on a foundation of empty stomachs."

Mr. Anderson, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who was elected chairman, reviewed the U.S. position. Stocks of grain were low, and future exports would come from the new crop. The prospects for wheat were 1,000 million bushels, of which they intended to export about 6 million tons—about one quarter. He recommended the creation of stronger machinery than the Combined Food Board, and suggested that the real power should be given to the F.A.O., though that would involve a revision of its charter.

Mr. Hoover advocated the drastic reorganization of existing machinery to take over the whole food problem not later than September. Such a body could be created under the United Nations, and under it could be set up regional offices for N. America, S. America, Europe, Asia, and the Indian Ocean.

May 21.—The International Conference of Agricultural Producers opened in London, and was attended by representatives of 31 nations. It was called by the National Farmers' Union of the U.K.

In Montreal the assembly of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization opened its session. Delegates of 36 nations attended.

May 22.—At the Conference in Washington of the Food and Agricultural Organization, Committee 3 received from the member States of the Combined Food Board (Britain, the U.S.A., and Canada) a paper proposing the establishment of an international emergency food council, of 20 nations, to replace the Food Board, and to make recommendations to member Governments for the allocation of food, fertilizer, and animal feed. Its meetings would be attended by both the F.A.O. and U.N.R.R.A.

During the plenary session the Chinese delegate said that probably 30 million Chinese faced starvation, and the Food Board's allocations were totally inadequate.

The Brazilian delegate said Brazil would be able to export rice far above the expected quota, and could also offer beans, maize, cocoa, and coffee. Transport was the key.

*May 25.*—The Economic and Social Council met in New York.



## THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

*May 7.*—The President of the Council received a letter dated May 6 from the Persian Ambassador in Washington recalling the stages through which the Persian case had passed, and going on: "Soviet troops have now been completely evacuated from the provinces of Khorassam, Gorgan, Mazanderan, and Gilan. This information is based on investigation made by responsible officials of the Government. So far as the province of Azerbaijan is concerned the Government has been informed through other sources that the evacuation of Soviet troops from that province has been going forward and, it is said, will have been completed before May 7. These reports have not been verified by direct observations of officials of the Persian Government. The reason for this is that, as previously pointed out to the Council, the Government has been unable, because of the interferences complained of, to exercise effective authority within Azerbaijan since Nov. 7, 1945, and from that time to the present has had no opportunity to ascertain through its own officials what are the conditions prevailing throughout that province."

*May 8.*—Mr. Stettinius, since Russia had not complied with the Council's request to report that Persia had been evacuated by Soviet troops, moved a resolution deferring further proceedings so that the Persian Government might have time to ascertain whether all the Soviet troops had left Persia and asking the Government to submit a complete report "immediately upon the receipt of information which will enable it to do so". If it was unable to get such information by May 20, the Government should be asked to report such information as was then available, and after that, the Council should consider whether further proceedings were required.

The Australian delegate pointed out that the Soviet delegate had ignored the Council, and there were only 10 members present, and this had happened before. "When that happens twice", he said, "it looks as though we may be on the way to establishing very dangerous procedures for the work of this organ." If a member absented himself he was setting up a position which affected the functioning of the Council, and in the Charter he could find nothing allowing any member to have powers that could be exercised apart from the Council—he enjoyed the powers given to members only when he took part in its work. Otherwise, even if they passed such a simple resolution as had been submitted, its constitutionality might be called in question by the absence of a member.

Sir Alexander Cadogan supported the U.S. resolution, but questioned the Australian argument, saying, "the absence of one of our members from this table does not halt the Council: we sit here and function". The resolution was adopted by the votes of all 10 members.

*May 15.*—The report of the committee of experts on rules of procedure was submitted to the Council.

*May 16.*—The Council met to adopt the rules of procedure submitted by the committee. Discussion arose as to the powers of the Council in

respect of the admission of new members to the U.N.O. The report suggested that applications should be submitted to the Council, which would refer them to a committee for consideration, and their finding would then be submitted to the Assembly. The Australian delegate said the Council was not the executive committee of U.N.O. and should not be made so, and he proposed that each application be sent to the Assembly, which, if it decided to entertain it, would refer each one to the Council for its finding. The Council would report to the Assembly, which would make a final decision.

The retiring president, Hafiz Afifi Pasha, said the great mass of humanity was disappointed because "the Powers are not working as a united family of nations in the interest of all the people, but are trying to further their own interests without regard or consideration for others". War could be prevented; the great bulk of the people were not greedy, and only asked for a decent standard of living. Speaking as representative of a small Power (Egypt) he appealed that no effort should be spared to make the Council "the true and real instrument of an everlasting peace".

*May 17.*—The Council passed unanimously a resolution on the admission of new members to U.N.O. providing that applications should be referred to a committee of the Council for investigation, and that the committee should report to it not less than 30 days before a regular session of the Assembly or at a special session called at least 14 days before. The Council should make its own recommendation for or against admission at least 25 days before a regular session of the Assembly.

*May 22.*—The Council dealt with a letter from the Persian spokesman, Hussein Ala, dated May 21 stating that "there is not sufficient first-hand information available to my Government as to the true state of affairs throughout Azerbaijan to make the complete report requested", and "it is doubtful whether an adequate investigation can be conducted or a satisfactory report made by the Persian Government until this Government is in a position to exercise its full authority throughout the province".

The Council also discussed a telegram, also dated May 21, from the Persian Premier, who said that a commission sent to Azerbaijan to investigate reported that no trace whatever was found of Russian troops, equipment, or transport, and that trustworthy local people who were questioned all stated that the troops left on May 6.

Mr. Stettinius said the Teheran telegram was not conclusive evidence, and in any case the presence of Soviet troops was only one of the matters of controversy between Russia and Persia, and he was against the Council dropping the case. In fact, his Government thought it was most desirable that it should continue to remain seized of the case, indicating thereby its continuing concern in "this potentially dangerous and as yet unclarified situation".

Sir Alexander Cadogan pointed out that the report before them did not say that the Persian Government was satisfied that the evacuation of its territory was complete, and it seemed to be based on second-hand

evidence. Up to a very recent date the Government was unable to exercise effectively its authority in Azerbaijan. It was not clear what steps its commission took to verify that equipment and transport had been removed, or whether Russian soldiers had been left behind in civilian clothes. The Russian Government had never replied to requests to explain why they had not carried out the 1942 Treaty.

Dr. Lange complained of the way the Council had handled the whole case, and especially of its refusal to allow the Persian Government to withdraw it from the agenda. That refusal had "been used to create trouble and to make Persia a perpetual and permanent football of big Power politics".

Hussein Ala was invited to answer questions, and said his view was that the original complaint of Russian interference in internal affairs was still on the agenda. As for the troops, he believed it was long after May 6 that they left, "if they have actually been entirely withdrawn". There was now in Azerbaijan a hostile army drilled and equipped by the Russians and in Russian uniform. The Russian Government was the only one interfering in their internal affairs. The places mentioned as evacuated in M. Qawam's telegram did not cover half the province, and the commission went in a Russian aeroplane.

M. Parodi (France) urged that M. Qawam's telegram be accepted, the case being left on the agenda for a week or 10 days and then dropped unless meantime information came to contradict that already received. Sir Alexander Cadogan strongly objected, and recommended that the Council adjourn the matter till it got elucidation of the question whether the Persian Government was satisfied that evacuation was complete. Mr. Stettinius concurred.

The Council voted on a Dutch motion for the adjournment, and only Poland voted against it. A proposal by Dr. Lange that a telegram be sent to Teheran asking whether the Government was satisfied that evacuation was complete was supported only by France.

M. Gromyko did not attend the session.

May 23.—The sub-committee on Spain heard Dr. Giral's evidence as to the strength of the armed forces of Franco's Government, and the presence in Spain of French Fascist agents.

## THE BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR INDIA

ON May 16 the British Cabinet Mission's proposals for the future of India were published as a White Paper, Cmd. 6821.

They took the form of a statement by the Mission and the Viceroy, announcing, in the first place, that as it had proved impossible in discussion to close the gap between the Congress Party and the Muslim League and reach agreement they felt it their duty to put forward what they felt was the best arrangement possible to ensure a speedy setting up of the new Constitution. In their proposals they had tried to be just to the smaller as well as the larger sections of the people, and to recommend a solution which would lead to a practicable way of governing the India of the future.

The evidence they had taken had shown an almost universal desire, outside the supporters of the Muslim League, for the unity of India. They had, however, examined closely the possibility of partition, since they were greatly impressed by the very genuine anxiety of the Muslims lest they should find themselves subjected to a perpetual Hindu-majority rule, and if there was to be internal peace in India "it must be secured by measures which will assure to the Muslims a control in all matters vital to their culture, religion, and economic or other interests". They had therefore considered the League's claim for the acceptance of the principle of Pakistan. The figures of Muslim and non-Muslim population in the 6 so-called Muslim provinces showed them that the setting up of a separate sovereign State of Pakistan would not solve the communal minority problem, nor could they see any justification for including within a Pakistan those districts of the Punjab, Bengal, and Assam in which the population was predominantly non-Muslim. They therefore considered whether a smaller Pakistan confined to Muslim majority areas might be a basis of compromise, but the Muslim League regarded that as impracticable because it would entail the exclusion of the whole of large areas in the Punjab, the whole of Assam except the district of Sylhet, and a large part of western Bengal, including Calcutta. Any solution which involved a radical partition of the Punjab and Bengal would be contrary to the wishes and interests of a very large proportion of the inhabitants. Each had its common language, and a long history and tradition; moreover, any division of the Punjab would divide the Sikhs.

There were also weighty administrative, economic, and military considerations. The transport and postal and telegraph systems had been established on the basis of a united India, and the armed forces had been built up as a whole. The two sections of the suggested Pakistan contained the two most vulnerable frontiers in India, and for a successful defence in depth the area of Pakistan would be insufficient. Further, the Indian States would find themselves in great difficulty in associating themselves with a divided British India.

Finally, the two halves of Pakistan would be separated by some 700 miles, with communication between them dependent on the good will of Hindustan.

To meet the Muslim apprehensions the Congress had put forward a scheme under which provinces would have full autonomy subject only to a minimum of central subjects such as foreign affairs, defence, and communications, but this would, in the Mission's view, present considerable constitutional disadvantages, e.g. it would be very difficult to work a central executive and legislature in which some Ministers, who dealt with compulsory subjects, were responsible to the whole of India while other Ministers, who dealt with optional ones, would be responsible only to those provinces which had elected to act together in respect of such subjects.

The Mission was informed by representatives of the Indian States that they were willing to co-operate in the new development of India. The precise form co-operation would take must be a matter for negotiation during the building up of a new constitutional structure, and it by no means followed that it would be identical for all the States.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION

The Cabinet Mission recommend that the Constitution should take the following basic form:

"(1) There should be a union of India embracing both British India and the States which should deal with the following subjects: Foreign affairs, defence, and communications, and should have the powers necessary to raise the finances required for the above subjects.

"(2) The union should have an Executive and a Legislature constituted from British, Indian, and States representatives. Any question raising a major communal issue in the Legislature should require for its decision a majority of the representatives present and voting of each of the two major communities as well as a majority of all the members present and voting.

"(3) All subjects other than the union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the provinces.

"(4) The States should retain all subjects and powers other than those ceded to the union.

"(5) Provinces should be free to form groups with executives and legislatures, and each group could determine the provincial subjects to be taken in common.

"(6) The constitutions of the union and of the groups should contain a provision whereby any province could by a majority vote of its legislative assembly call for a reconsideration of the terms of the Constitution after an initial period of ten years, and at ten-yearly intervals thereafter."

#### THE CONSTITUTION-MAKING MACHINERY

It was the Mission's business only to set in motion machinery whereby a Constitution could be settled by Indians, but it had been necessary for it to make this recommendation because it became clear in the course of negotiations that not until that had been done was there any hope of getting the two major communities to join in the setting up of the constitution-making machinery.

As to the nature of this machinery and its creation the only practicable course would be to utilize the recently elected Provincial Legislative Assemblies as electing bodies. Here it was necessary to correct 2 points in their composition which complicated the matter: first, the numerical strengths of these Legislative Assemblies did not bear the same proportion to the total population in each province; and secondly, owing to the weightage given to minorities by the Communal Award the strength of the several communities in each Legislative Assembly was not in proportion to their numbers in the province. The fairest plan would therefore be (1) to allot to each province a total number of seats proportional to its population, roughly in the ratio of 1 to 1 million; (2) to divide this allocation of seats between the main communities in each province in proportion to their population; and (3) to provide that the representatives allocated to each community in a province should be elected by members of that community in its Legislative Assembly.

For these purposes only 3 communities would be recognized: General, Muslim, and Sikh, the first including everyone not Muslims or Sikhs. Special arrangements were suggested to prevent the smaller communities from having little or no representation, since they would lose the weightage which assured them seats in Provincial Legislatures. These proposals fixed the numbers of representatives of each of the main communities to be elected by each Provincial Legislature, each part of the Legislative Assembly (General, Muslim, and Sikh) electing its own representatives by the method of proportional representation with single transferable vote. The States should be given appropriate representation in the Constituent Assembly which would not exceed 93, on the basis of the calculation of population adopted in British India.

The Provinces were grouped in 3 sections: *A*, Madras, Bombay, United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces, and Orissa; *B*, Punjab, N.W. Frontier Province, and Sind; and *C*, Bengal and Assam. These sections should proceed to settle provincial constitutions for their own provinces, and also decide whether any group constitution should be set up for those provinces and if so with what provincial subjects the group should deal.

The representatives of the sections and the States should reassemble for the purpose of settling the Union Constitution. As soon as the new constitutional arrangements had come into operation it should be open to any province to elect to come out of any group in which it had been placed.

The Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorities, and tribal and excluded areas should contain due representation of the interests affected, and their function would be to report to the Constituent Assembly on the list of fundamental rights, clauses for protecting minorities, and a scheme for the administration of tribal and excluded areas.

The Viceroy would forthwith request the Provincial Legislatures to elect their representatives and the States to set up a negotiating committee. It would be necessary to negotiate a treaty between the Constituent Assembly and the U.K. to provide for certain matters arising



out of the transfer of power. As the administration of India had meanwhile to be carried on the Mission attached the greatest importance to the setting up at once of an interim Government having the support of the major political parties. The Viceroy had already started discussions, and hoped soon to form such a Government in which all the portfolios, including that of War, would be held by Indians. The British Government would give the fullest co-operation to the Government so formed in its task and in bringing about as rapid and smooth a transition as possible.

The Statement concluded by saying that, owing to the failure of the Indian people to agree on the method of framing the new Constitution, the Mission now laid before them the proposals which they trusted would enable India to attain her independence in the shortest time, and with the least danger of internal disturbance and conflict. They asked the Indian people to consider the alternative to the acceptance of these proposals—grave danger of violence, chaos, and even civil war. They appealed to all who had the future good of India at heart to extend their vision beyond their own community or interest to the interests of the whole 400 million of Indian people.

They ended by expressing a hope that the new India "may choose to be a member of the British Commonwealth".

#### THE INDIAN STATES

On May 22 the Mission published a Memorandum sent to the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes before the Simla discussions began. This referred to the fact that the Princes had already confirmed that the States fully shared the general desire in the country for the immediate attainment by India of her full status, and went on to say that during the interim period before the coming into operation of the new constitutional structure Paramountcy would remain in operation, but the British Government "could not and will not in any circumstances transfer Paramountcy to an Indian Government". Further, it could not carry out the powers of Paramountcy itself in an independent India, and it "cannot contemplate that British troops will be maintained in India for this purpose".

The void that would be left by the ending of Paramountcy "will have to be filled either by the States entering into a federal relationship with the successor Government of British India or, failing this, entering into particular political arrangements with it".

The memorandum advised the States "to form or join administrative units large enough to enable them to be fitted into the constitutional structure", and to "take active steps to place themselves in close and constant touch with public opinion . . . by means of representative institutions".

The Mission issued a statement later, saying they wished to make it clear that the memorandum was "drawn up before the Mission began its discussions with the party leaders".

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT BY THE MISSION

On May 25, the Mission and the Viceroy issued a joint statement saying they had considered the views expressed by the two main parties, but "the position is that since the Indian leaders . . . failed to arrive at an agreement the Delegation put forward its recommendations as the nearest approach to reconciling the views of the two parties. The scheme stands as a whole, and can only succeed if it is accepted and worked in a spirit of co-operation.

"The Delegation wishes also to refer briefly to a few points which have been raised in the statement and resolution. The authority and the functions of the Constituent Assembly and the procedure which it is intended to follow are clear from the Cabinet Delegation's statement. Once the Constituent Assembly is formed and working on this basis there is no intention of interfering with its discretion or questioning its decisions.

"When the Constituent Assembly has completed its labours, his Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament such actions as may be necessary for the cession of sovereignty to the Indian people, subject only to two matters which are mentioned in the statement and which we believe are not controversial, namely, adequate provision for the protection of minorities, and willingness to conclude a treaty with his Majesty's Government to cover matters arising out of the transfer of power.

"The interpretation put by the Congress resolution in paragraph 15 of the statement to the effect that the Provinces can in the first instance make the choice whether or not to belong to the section in which they are placed does not accord with the Delegation's intention. The reasons for the grouping of the Provinces are well known, and this is an essential feature of the scheme and can only be modified by agreement between the parties.

"The right to opt out of the group after the constitution-making has been completed is exercised by the people themselves, since at the first election under the new provincial constitution this question of opting out will obviously be a major issue, and all those entitled to vote under the new franchise will be able to take their share in a truly democratic decision.

"It is agreed that the interim Government will have a new basis. That basis is that all portfolios, including that of the War Member, will be held by Indians, and that the members will be selected in consultation with the Indian political parties . . . His Majesty's Government will recognize the effect of these changes, will attach the fullest weight to them, and will give the Indian Government the greatest possible freedom in the exercise of the day-to-day administration of India. As the Congress statement recognizes, the present Constitution must continue during the interim period, and the interim Government cannot therefore be made legally responsible to the Central Legislature.

"There is, however, nothing to prevent the members of the Govern-

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ment individually or by common consent from resigning if they fail to pass an important measure through the Legislature or if a vote of no confidence is passed against them.

"There is, of course, no intention of retaining British troops in India against the wishes of an independent India under the new Constitution, but during the interim period . . . the British Parliament has, under the present Constitution, ultimate responsibility for the security of India, and it is necessary, therefore, that British troops should remain."

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- June 2 French National Elections.
- „ 2 Italian General Elections and Referendum on the monarchy.
- „ 6 Sixth Imperial Press Conference, London.
- „ 6-29 Conference (Maritime) of the I.L.O., Seattle.
- „ 14 United Nations Commission on Atomic Energy, New York.
- „ 15 Four Ministers' Conference, Paris.
- „ 20 International Health Conference, New York.
- June 17-July 9 Empire Scientific Conference, London, Cambridge, Oxford.
- June 21 Elections to the National Convention, Newfoundland.
- „ 30 Referendum in Poland.
- July 5 Preparatory Commission of the U.N.E.S.C.O., London.
- „ 9 Comité International Technique et Juridique des Experts, Paris.
- „ 9-20 Commonwealth Scientific Official Conference, London.
- Sept. 1 Referendum on the monarchy in Greece.
- „ 3 General Assembly of the United Nations, New York.
- „ 19 Conference of the I.L.O., Montreal.
- Oct. ? Plenary Session of the Food and Agricultural Organization, Washington?
- Nov. 4 General Conference of U.N.E.S.C.O., Paris.
- Dec. ? Pan-American Conference, Bogota.